

**To:** Dewald, Tommy[Dewald.Tommy@epa.gov]; Young, Dwane[Young.Dwane@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]; Spence, Sandra[Spence.Sandra@epa.gov]  
**From:** McComb, Martin  
**Sent:** Sun 8/16/2015 11:31:23 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Animas River - Fire Drill

Tommy and Dwane!

I tried to call you guys the other day just to reminisce about Katrina. Do you all remember how we had data in STORET and posted to the public over the course of one weekend and the OEM woke up and freaked out. But what could they do, it worked so they kept using it.

This one is way worse. I couldn't get my leadership structure to trust that we have done this before.

I will always love STORET!!!!!!!!!!

Marty

On Aug 10, 2015, at 12:44 PM, Hermann, Karl <[Hermann.Karl@epa.gov](mailto:Hermann.Karl@epa.gov)> wrote:

Tommy and Dwane,

I stopped by our Regional Operations Center and ran into Marty McComb. Marty said to give him a call (303-312-6963).

~~~~~  
Karl A. Hermann

Monitoring and Assessment

Water Quality Unit, Region 8

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1595 Wynkoop Street, Mailcode 8EPR-EP

Denver, CO 80202

303-312-6628

[hermann.karl@epa.gov](mailto:hermann.karl@epa.gov)

**From:** Dewald, Tommy  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 12:37 PM  
**To:** Hermann, Karl  
**Subject:** RE: Animas River - Fire Drill

Thanks Karl. Hope you're doing well these days!

\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\  
Tommy Dewald, USEPA Office of Water  
Phone: 202-566-1178, Fax: 202-566-1437  
Mail: 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (4503T), Washington, DC 20460  
Delivery: 1301 Constitution Ave NW (7324), Washington, DC 20460

**From:** Hermann, Karl  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** Ostrander, David  
**Cc:** Spence, Sandra; Dewald, Tommy  
**Subject:** FW: Animas River - Fire Drill

FYI

~~~~~  
Karl A. Hermann

Monitoring and Assessment

Water Quality Unit, Region 8

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1595 Wynkoop Street, Mailcode 8EPR-EP

Denver, CO 80202

303-312-6628

[hermann.karl@epa.gov](mailto:hermann.karl@epa.gov)

**From:** Dewald, Tommy  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 11:56 AM  
**To:** Samuels, William B.; Selle, Tony; Hermann, Karl  
**Cc:** Reid, Wendy; Young, Dwane; Reems, Shera; Carlson, Rachel  
**Subject:** RE: Animas River - Fire Drill

All -

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and others have sponsored the development of the ICWater spill response application for such events. I'm CCing Bill Samuels (CCed) who works for Leidos under contract to DTRA and manages the ICWater project. ICWater was used for the Elk River spill in West Virginia last year to help Cincinnati officials (downstream) respond to drinking water risks associated with the spill.

Tommy

\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\  
Tommy Dewald, USEPA Office of Water  
Phone: 202-566-1178, Fax: 202-566-1437  
Mail: 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (4503T), Washington, DC 20460  
Delivery: 1301 Constitution Ave NW (7324), Washington, DC 20460

**From:** Reid, Wendy  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 1:19 PM  
**To:** Young, Dwane; Dewald, Tommy; Reems, Shera  
**Subject:** FW: Animas River - Fire Drill  
**Importance:** High

I'm going to need some help with a fire drill regarding the mine spill into the Animas River in Colorado.

Dave Evans wants to know what sort of assistance AWPD and the water monitoring program in Region 8 can provide for the effort, to "assist the Regions in assessing, modeling, understanding the impacts of the spill". Dave asked that we contact the Regional water program also, to see how they are involved and how the water program capabilities may help the response team. At the moment, I think they are just looking for ideas of how we can help, not the actual results, though those would likely need to follow soon.

### **Ideas – let me know how feasible these would be**

We could potentially use our databases to gather background info. From a CNN report (<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/07/us/colorado-epa-mine-river-spill-irpt/>), it sounds like this is related to the Gold King Mine, a suspended mine near Durango, CO, and flows down into New Mexico where the Animas River meets the San Juan river. The CNN report says "Officials said they believe the spill carried heavy metals, mainly iron, zinc and copper, from the mine into a creek that feeds into the Animas River."

1. We can use the Upstream/Downstream capabilities of NHDPlus – not entirely sure how this would work. Maybe find the Animas River near Durango and have it navigate downstream, to get the stream network and then use that to do an intersection with the 305b/303d/impaired waters with TMDLs layers to pull that information?
2. In ATTAINS, 2010 is the latest published data for Colorado, but we just opened the review for CO 2012 to Karl Hermann in Region 8. So, we may be able to search through that data to get background info on metals impairments.
3. Specifically, we could look at any TMDLs for Gold King Mine.
4. The most recent New Mexico data in ATTAINS is from the 2014 cycle.
5. In STORET, we could look for information on iron, zinc and copper for the river and downstream

Dave is contacting ORD to ask about modeling capabilities they may have. He has also contacted Lynda Hall and Jim Havard asking about Doug and Dwight's expertise.

Any other ideas?

Thanks,

Wendy

--

Wendy Reid

US EPA, Office of Water

Phone: 202-566-1705

[Reid.Wendy@epa.gov](mailto:Reid.Wendy@epa.gov)

**From:** Evans, David  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 12:19 PM  
**To:** Reid, Wendy  
**Cc:** Best-Wong, Benita  
**Subject:** FW: Animas River

Wendy,

Here are the email communications I just mentioned.

I'll check in with ORD on their modeling capabilities, and you check in with any others you wish in AWPD and Region 8 monitoring program to identify what our capabilities are, and extent to which Region 8 may already have effectively involved water monitoring experts.

Thanks, and let me know any questions.

Dave

**From:** Best-Wong, Benita  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 10:34 AM  
**To:** Evans, David  
**Subject:** FW: Animas River

Dave please follow up with Susan and others to see how we can assist.  
Thanks

Sent from my Windows Phone

---

**From:** Kopocis, Ken  
**Sent:** 8/10/2015 7:06 AM  
**To:** Gilinsky, Ellen  
**Cc:** Best-Wong, Benita; Grevatt, Peter; Southerland, Elizabeth; Sawyers, Andrew; Shapiro, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Animas River

ORD has been contacted separately. I am looking at what OW might contribute.

**From:** Gilinsky, Ellen  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 8:05 AM  
**To:** Kopocis, Ken  
**Cc:** Best-Wong, Benita; Grevatt, Peter; Southerland, Elizabeth; Sawyers, Andrew; Shapiro, Mike  
**Subject:** Re: Animas River

I would think ORD has modeling tools to predict effects.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 6:52 AM, Kopocis, Ken <[Kopocis.Ken@epa.gov](mailto:Kopocis.Ken@epa.gov)> wrote:

I have seen some traffic over the weekend and have been following the mine waste spill into the Animas River.

To what extent do we have the ability to assist the Regions in assessing, modeling, understanding the impacts of the spill?

Unfortunately, the news keeps getting worse.

Let's be prepared to discuss at staff meeting, if not before.

Ken Kopocis

Office of Water

U.S. EPA

(202) 564-5700